

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the several telephone calls regarding this matter. During these telephone calls, the Examiner and Applicants' representative, Albert W. Vredevelde, discussed Iliff, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053875 (hereinafter "Iliff"). As discussed during these telephone calls, Iliff discusses adding weights associated with a patient's responses to questions to determine whether the patient is likely to have a disease. See e.g., Iliff, para. 69. However, Iliff does not discuss using a total of numerical score values of two or more of a patient's answers to determine whether symptoms related to the patient's pre-diagnosed chronic condition indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed chronic condition.

Claims 90, as amended, requires the processing computer to use a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers to determine whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition. Similarly, claim 105, as amended, requires determining, at the remote processing computer, whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition using a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers. Claim 117, as amended, requires the processing computer is configured to use the physiological data and a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers to determine whether the patient should be identified as potentially needing health care assistance in view of a worsening of the pre-diagnosed chronic condition. Claim 118, as amended, requires the processing computer to use a total of the predetermined numerical score values of two or more of the answers to determine whether the symptoms indicate a deterioration of the patient's pre-diagnosed condition. Thus, each of the independent claims of this Application include a requirement that is not taught by Iliff.

Conclusion

Claims 90-102 and 105-115, 117, and 118 remain pending in the application. These claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above (other reasons may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to make additional arguments advancing these arguments in the future). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prompt reconsideration, allowance, and passage of the application to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number below to expeditiously resolve this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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